

National Organization - 1928

American Negro Academy Holds 30th Annual Session

encouragement possible.

Schomberg Heads Body

—(ANP)—The 30th annual session of the National Negro Academy, the oldest organization of the group committed to the fostering and rewarding of literary merit and to the research into race history closed on Friday after a three-day session at the Mueso-lit Club in Washington, D. C.

Charles Johnson, editor of the Opportunity magazine, was principal speaker at the Wednesday night public session. He discussed the "New Negro" taking pains to impress the auditors that there "Is no such thing", and with considerable skill proceeded to prove to his hearers that the so-called New Negro is but the newer generation meeting a new environment—the setting being new, rather than the human subject. During the course of his address he paid a splendid tribute to the lettered ones of the decade and especially the current group of authors, poets and news writers.

President's Report

President Arthur Schomberg in his annual address, delivered prior to the announcement of Mr. Johnson, gave a report on his literary investigations in Europe during the past year and shed much light upon the earlier Negro writers, thus creating a foundation for an evening that virtually became a complete view of the Negro in Letters on a world-wide basis.

After the final session, President Schomberg accompanied by Secretaries Robert Pelham and Thomas Dent visited the Department of Commerce, where they conferred with Assistant Director, Dr. Frank M. Surface and Special Agent, Jas. A. Jackson, with reference to extending to the schools and organized groups the current information being assembled by this great government activity.

Among the several matters considered in executive session was the object of a more complete historical record of race life and the Carter G. Woodson work under the auspices of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History which he founded was approved and assured every

The officers of the academy for the ensuing year are Mr. Arthur Schomberg, Brooklyn, N. Y., president; vice presidents, J. R. Clifford, L. M. Hershaw, W. P. Dabney, W. H. Ferris; recording secretary, Thos. M. Dent; treasurer, F. H. M. Murray.

The executive committee is Leonard Z. Johnson, chairman; with Kelly Miller, H. P. Slaughter, Laine Leroy Locke, and George W. Cooke. Robert A. Pelham of the U. S. Census Bureau, continues as corresponding secretary. Messrs. Cook and Ferris are the only new persons in the official personnel, the others having all been re-elected.

It was disclosed at the session that the occasional papers published by the organization in a series ranging from number One to Twenty-two on various phases of the Negro problem have met with continued and consistent favor. Numbers 1, 2, 8 and 19 have been exhausted.

In a memorial service to the memory of deceased members, splendid tributes were paid to the services of Prof. John H. Cromwell, founder of the organization, who passed away last April, and to Prof. K. Aggrey, who died in last July in New York, after having returned from Africa, where he had been identified with the Prince of Wales College on the Gold Coast.

President Of The American Negro Academy



ARTHUR SCHOMBERG

ANOTHER SANHEDRIN?

12/8/28

DR. KELLY MILLER of Howard University urges the rebirth of the Negro Sanhedrin to consider the political future of the Negro race in America. He suggests that now is the time for united political counsel looking to the future. He desires to get together again a large number of the foremost members of the race for the purpose of discussing ways and means of bettering the lot of our people.

Do we really need another Sanhedrin? Will anything of value come out of another talkfest? Did anything of value come out of the first Negro Sanhedrin? The answer to all of these questions is "No." What can another Sanhedrin do? Organizations already in existence are doing their best to safeguard the civil and political rights of the Negro. If they are not doing as much as they should in this direction, it is largely due to the Negroes lack of financial support. It is doubtful whether holding another talkfest would tend to loosen up the purse strings of the black public. As for settling on some national political program for the race, that sounds Utopian. We are residents in a vast empire, as large as Europe, in which there are many sections whose economic life and customs differ considerably from each other. There is as much difference between Illinois and Mississippi as there is between Russia and Roumania. The same tactics that will be found effective politically by black people in Illinois will be of little or no value in Mississippi; what will advance the interests of the race politically in Massachusetts might retard them in South Carolina. It is impossible except when speaking very generally to say what Negroes ought to do everywhere in the United States.

Our opinion is that all over the United States Negroes are doing whatever they can to further themselves politically and otherwise. What they are doing in different sections depends upon the degree of liberality and tolerance of the white folks. It seems to us that intelligent Negroes everywhere are exerting themselves with varying degrees of discretion to ameliorate their condition. In one place we can send Negroes to the municipal assembly and state legislature, while in another place we have to be satisfied with getting a few of our number qualified to vote. In one place it is politic for us to be Democrats and sing the praises of the Donkey; in another we march in the ranks of the G. O. P. and "Keep Kool with Koolidge" or shout "Who But Hoover." In short, no hard and fast plan of political action for all Negroes in every section can be laid down, and it would be foolish to spend time and money holding another Sanhedrin for that purpose. The American Negro will advance a lot faster if he will devote all of his time and energy in an effort to adjust himself satisfactorily to the several environments in which he lives, rather than endeavoring to work out a plan of action for the whole race everywhere. Finally, the sooner the Negro gets out of politics AS A NEGRO the better off he will be.

KELLY MILLER URGES HOLDING OF SANHEDRIN

Washington Courier
**Says Time Is Ripe For
United Political**

Counsel

12/1/28

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29.—In an open letter to political leaders and those in other walks of life who are interested in the political advancement of the Negro, Dr. Kelly Miller, dean of Howard University, urges the rebirth of the Negro Sanhedrin to consider the political future of the Negro race.

"Now is the time to begin," declared Dean Miller. "It is suicidal to wait, as we did during Coolidge's administration, until the political conventions have been called and platforms formulated. The time is now ripe for united political counsel looking to the future."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO ACADEMY

25-27-28
The thirty-second annual meeting of the American Negro Academy will be held in this city Friday, December 28, 1928, at the Mabel Club, 1327 R street northwest. The business meeting of the Academy will be held in the library at 11 o'clock in the morning, and the open meeting in the parlors of the club at 8 p. m. Chief Amoah III, of Africa, will be the principal speaker. The public is invited to attend. Arthur A. Schomburg, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is president; and Robert A. Pelham, corresponding secretary; L. Z. Johnson, chairman of the executive committee.

Expansion Plans Are Decided By Builders

Problems Confronting Negro Builders
Discussed at Hampton Meeting and
Steps Taken to Meet Conditions of
Present Day.

Star, Newport News, Virginia

Culminating in a discussion on estimating costs in building, led by William T. Courtney, constructing supervisor of the American Missionary association, the sixth annual builders conference closed its session Wednesday at Hampton institute. The conference was attended by many of the leading contractors and builders of Virginia and other states, and the problems brought up for consideration were discussed in a way to give material aid in every particular.

Members of the conference, many of who had attended previous meeting left the gathering of contractors and builders highly pleased over the results of the three days spent at the Hampton institute and with the expanding usefulness of their national organization, the National Negro Builders association.

Called to order by President Chas. E. Coles, of Charlottesville, Va., Tuesday evening the association inaugurated a program of expansion which will reach contractors, graduates of high schools, and men coming into the trades through apprenticeship throughout the South. President Coles reported on his address given before the National Negro Business league at its annual session held at St. Louis.

Tuesday's session included addresses by Frederick F. Simmons, director of industrial education at Virginia Normal and Industrial institute, Petersburg; Linneaus T. Pinn, superintendent of construction at the same institution, and T. J. Quinlan, division manager of the Celotex company.